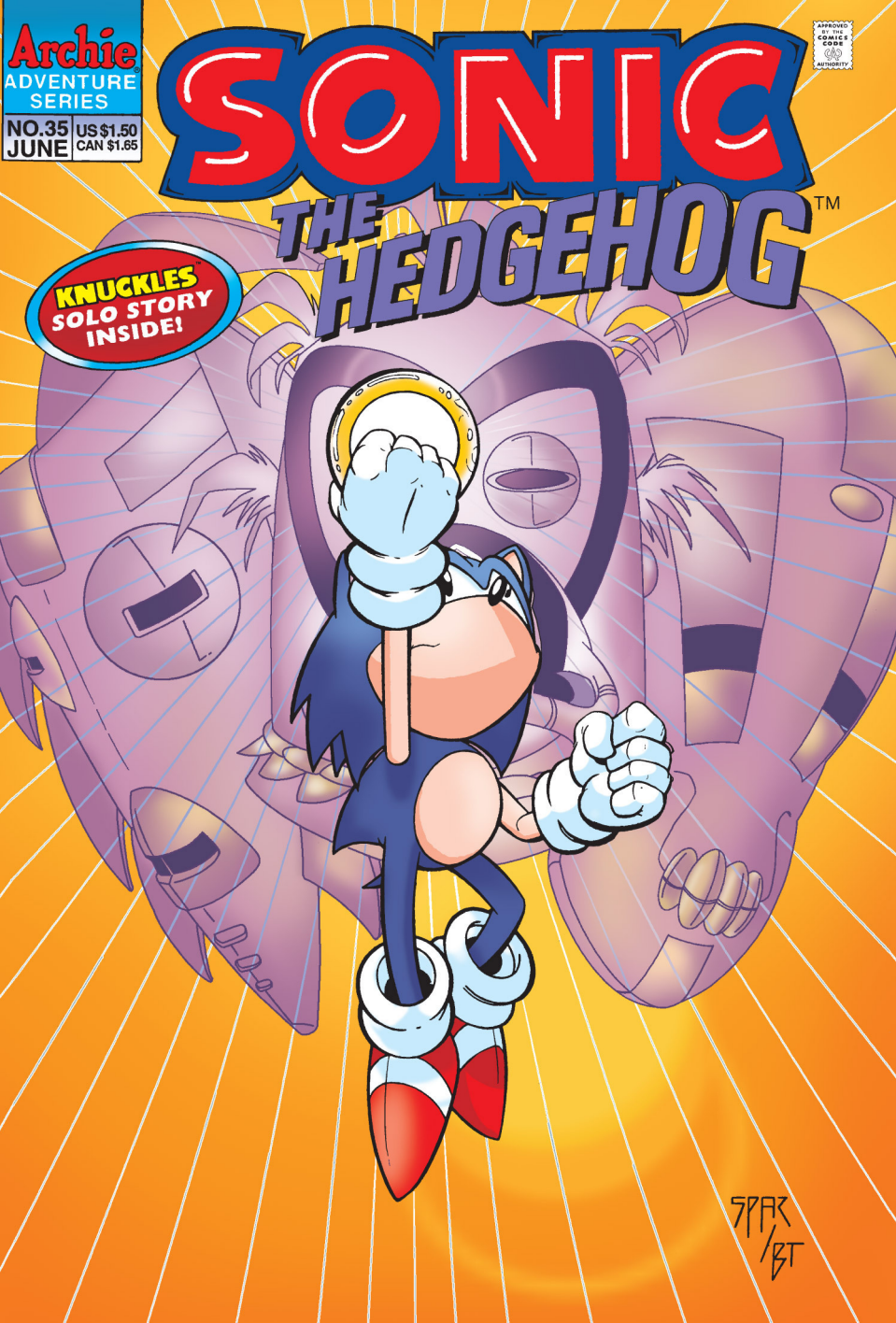
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SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG™
KNUCKLES SOLO STORY INSIDE!
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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™
in
RING of TRUTH!
PART I
THOUGHT HE ELUDED THE EVIL DR. IVO ROBOTNIK... BUT I'VE AMBUSHED HIM!
SKTOOM!
AAAGH! YOU SNEAKY ROBORAT! YOU MADE ME DROP ALL THE MAGIC RINGS I GATHERED!

SCRIPT:	PENCILLING:	INKING:	LETTERING:	COLORING:	EDITOR:	MANAGING EDITOR:	EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
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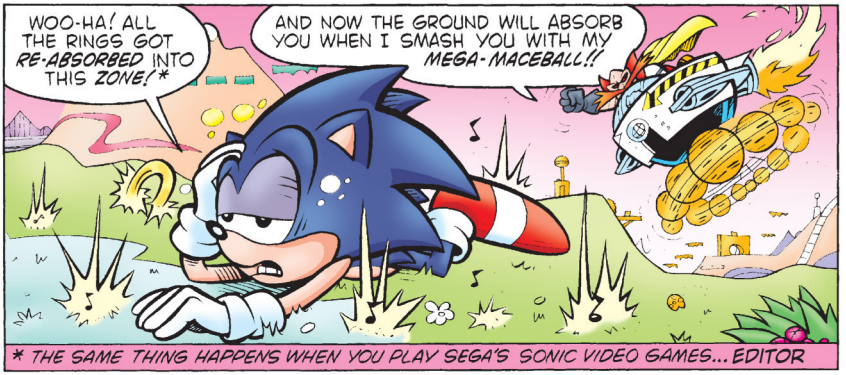
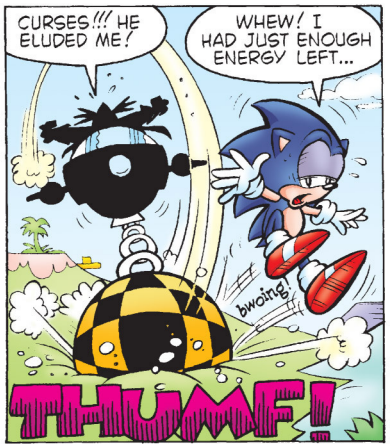
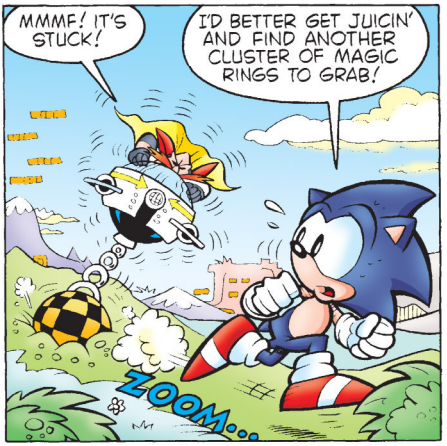
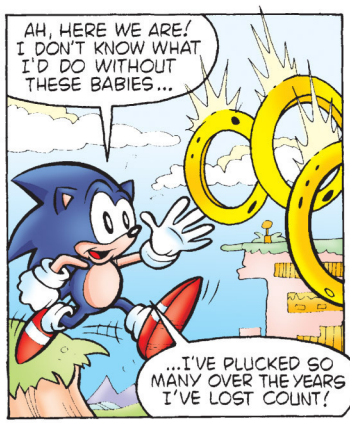
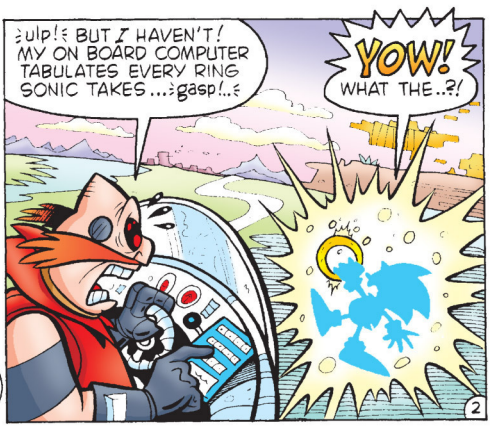
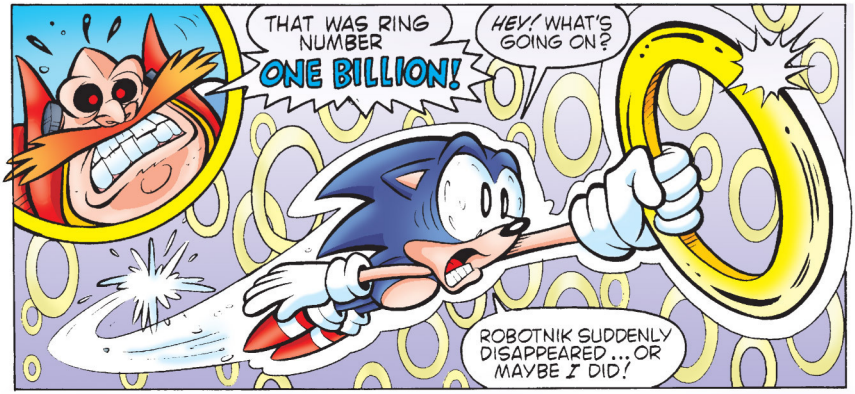

WOO-HA! ALL THE RINGS GOT RE-ABSORBED INTO THIS ZONE!*
AND NOW THE GROUND WILL ABSORB YOU WHEN I SMASH YOU WITH MY MEGA-MACEBALL!!
* THE SAME THING HAPPENS WHEN YOU PLAY SEGA'S SONIC VIDEO GAMES... EDITOR

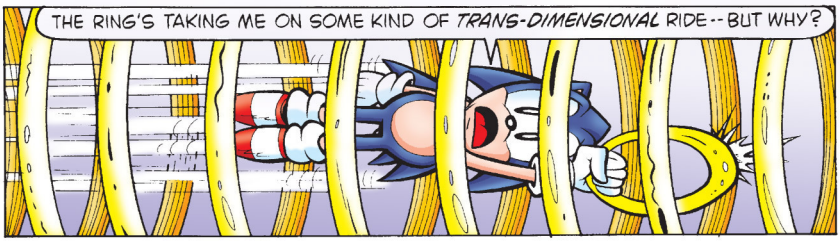

CURSES!!! HE ELUDED ME!
WHEW! I HAD JUST ENOUGH ENERGY LEFT...
bwoing!
THUMF!

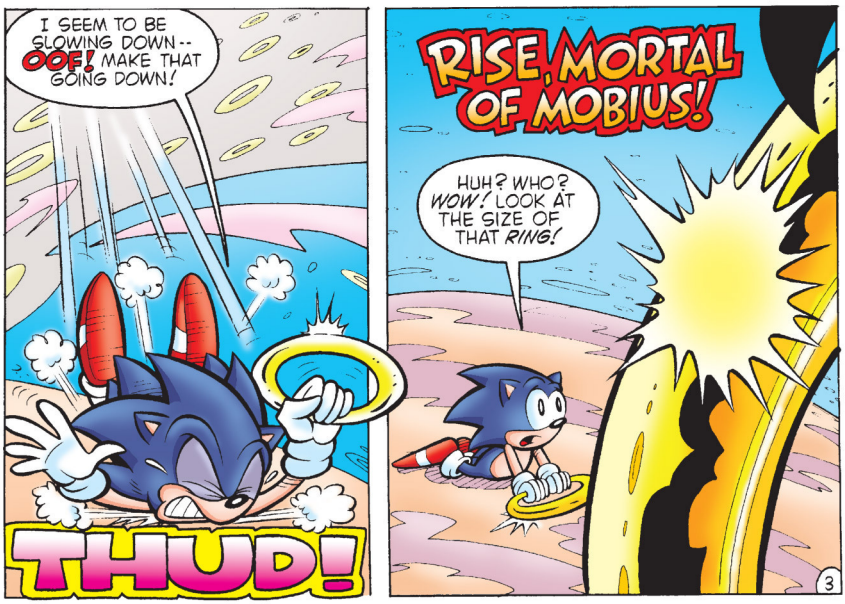

MMMF! IT'S STUCK!
I'D BETTER GET JUICIN' AND FIND ANOTHER CLUSTER OF MAGIC RINGS TO GRAB!
ZOOM...

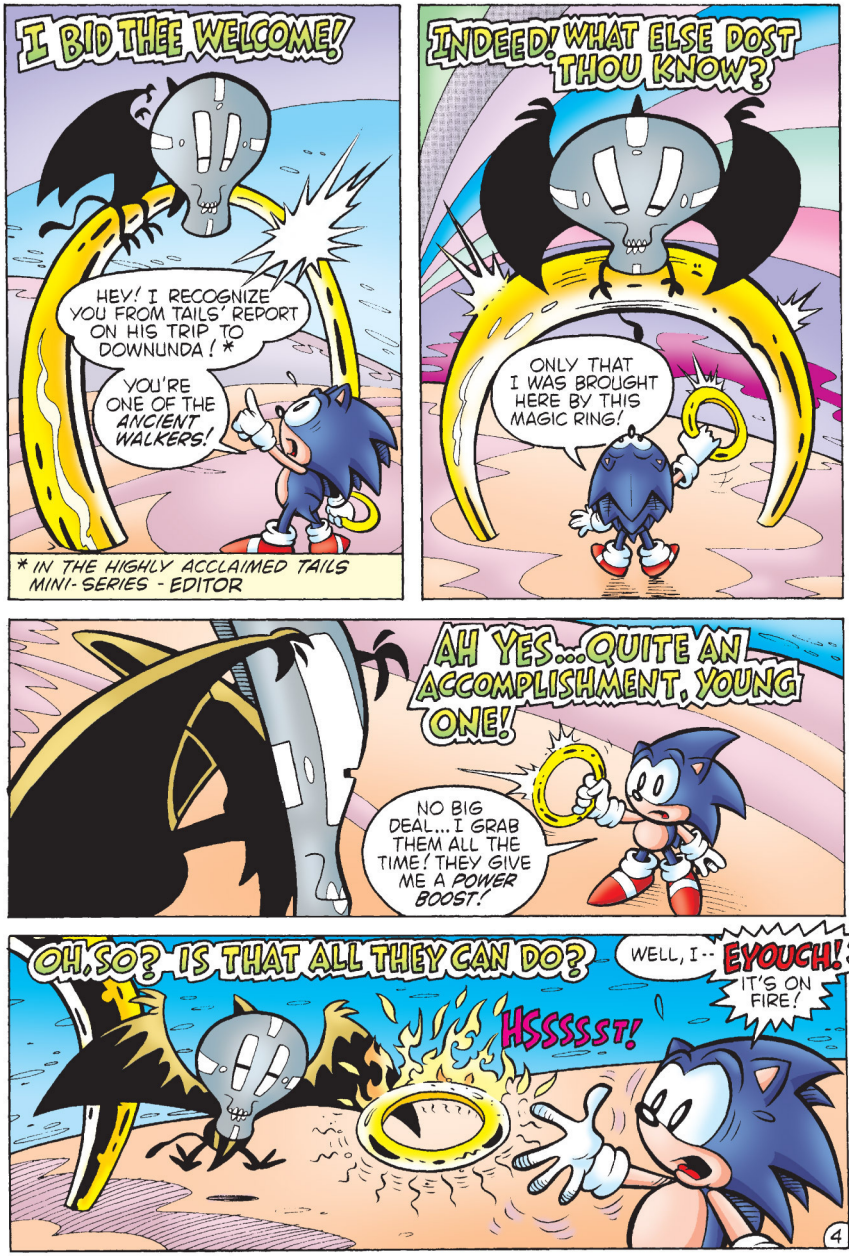

AH, HERE WE ARE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT THESE BABIES...
...I'VE PLUCKED SO MANY OVER THE YEARS I'VE LOST COUNT!

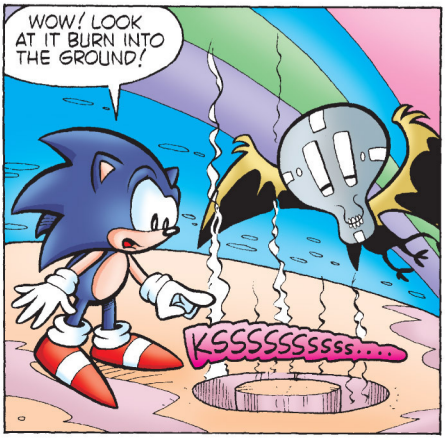

:ulp!: BUT I HAVEN'T! MY ON BOARD COMPUTER TABULATES EVERY RING SONIC TAKES...:gasp!..:
YOW! WHAT THE..?!


THAT WAS RING NUMBER
ONE BILLION!
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?
ROBOTNIK SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED ... OR MAYBE I DID!

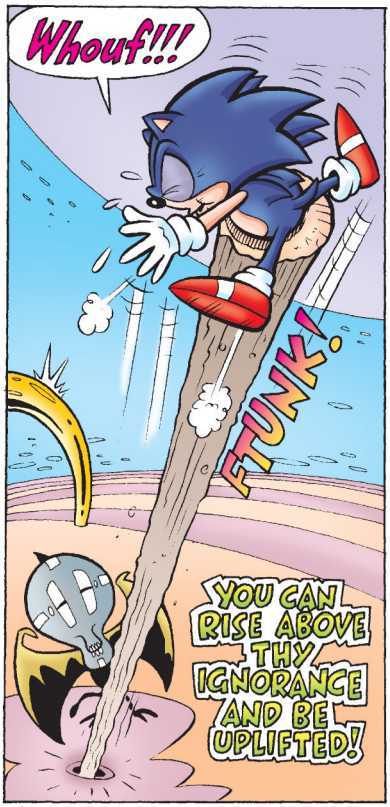

THE RING'S TAKING ME ON SOME KIND OF TRANS-DIMENSIONAL RIDE -- BUT WHY?

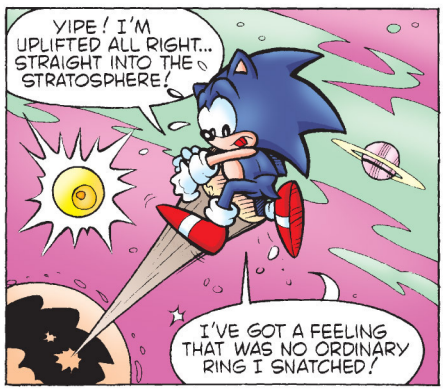

I SEEM TO BE SLOWING DOWN -- OOF! MAKE THAT GOING DOWN!
THUD!
RISE, MORTAL OF MOBIUS!
HUH? WHO? WOW! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT RING!

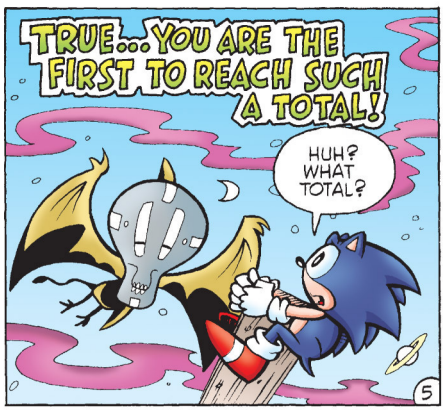

I BID THEE WELCOME!
HEY! I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM TAILS' REPORT ON HIS TRIP TO DOWNUNDA! *
YOU'RE ONE OF THE ANCIENT WALKERS!
* IN THE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED TAILS MINI-SERIES - EDITOR
INDEED! WHAT ELSE DOST THOU KNOW?
ONLY THAT I WAS BROUGHT HERE BY THIS MAGIC RING!
AH YES...QUITE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT, YOUNG ONE!
NO BIG DEAL... I GRAB THEM ALL THE TIME! THEY GIVE ME A POWER BOOST!
OH, SO? IS THAT ALL THEY CAN DO?
WELL, I--
EYOUCH! IT'S ON FIRE!
HSSSSST!
4

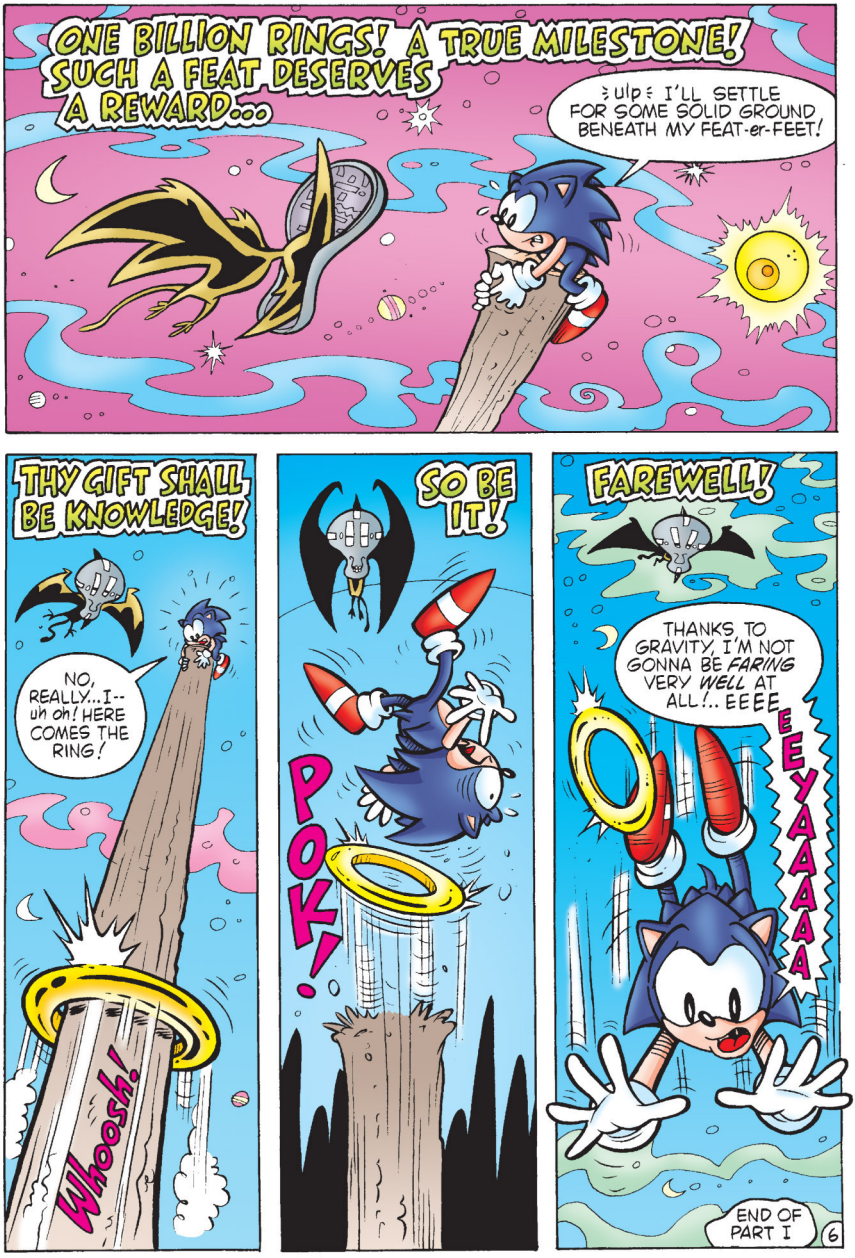

WOW! LOOK AT IT BURN INTO THE GROUND!
KSSSSSSSSS....

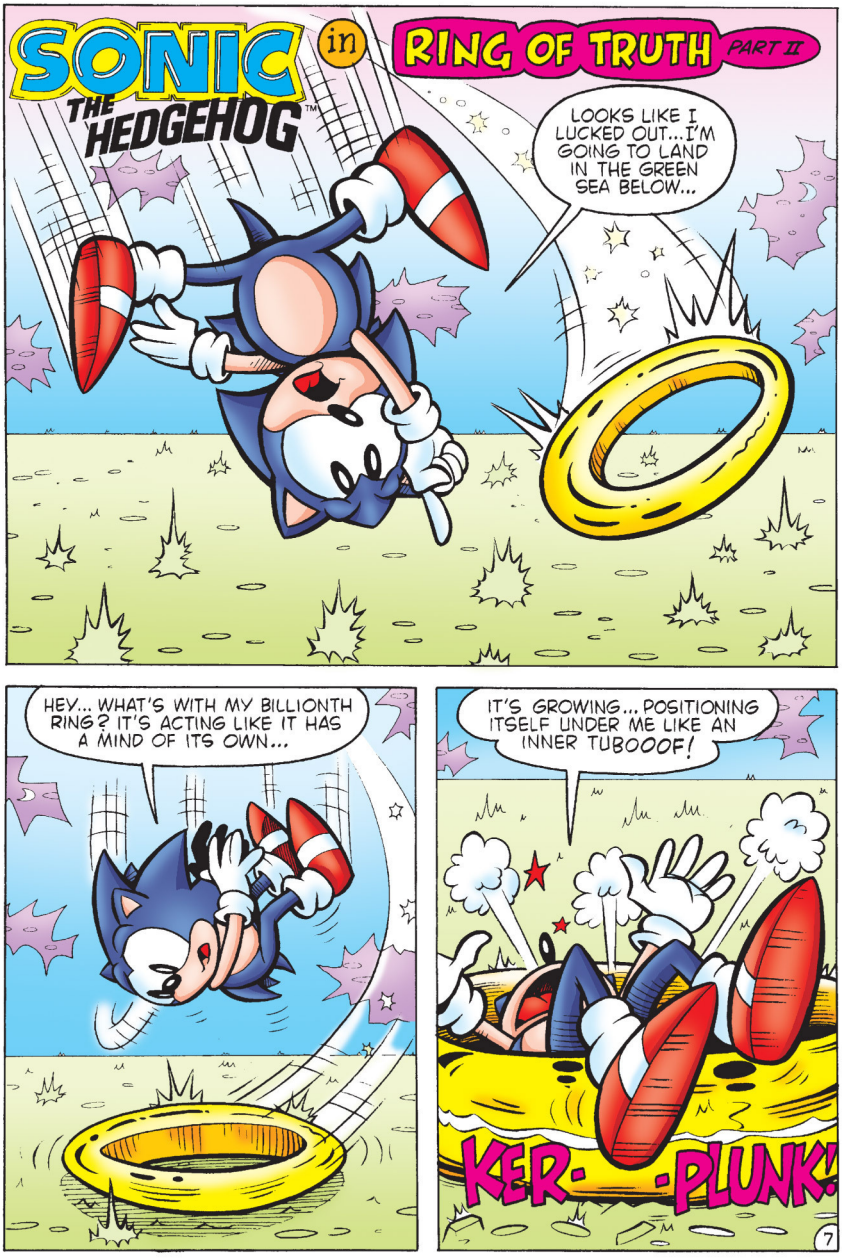
WHAT DOES THE CIRCLE SAY TO YOU?
NOT MUCH... WAIT-- WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
RUMBLE!

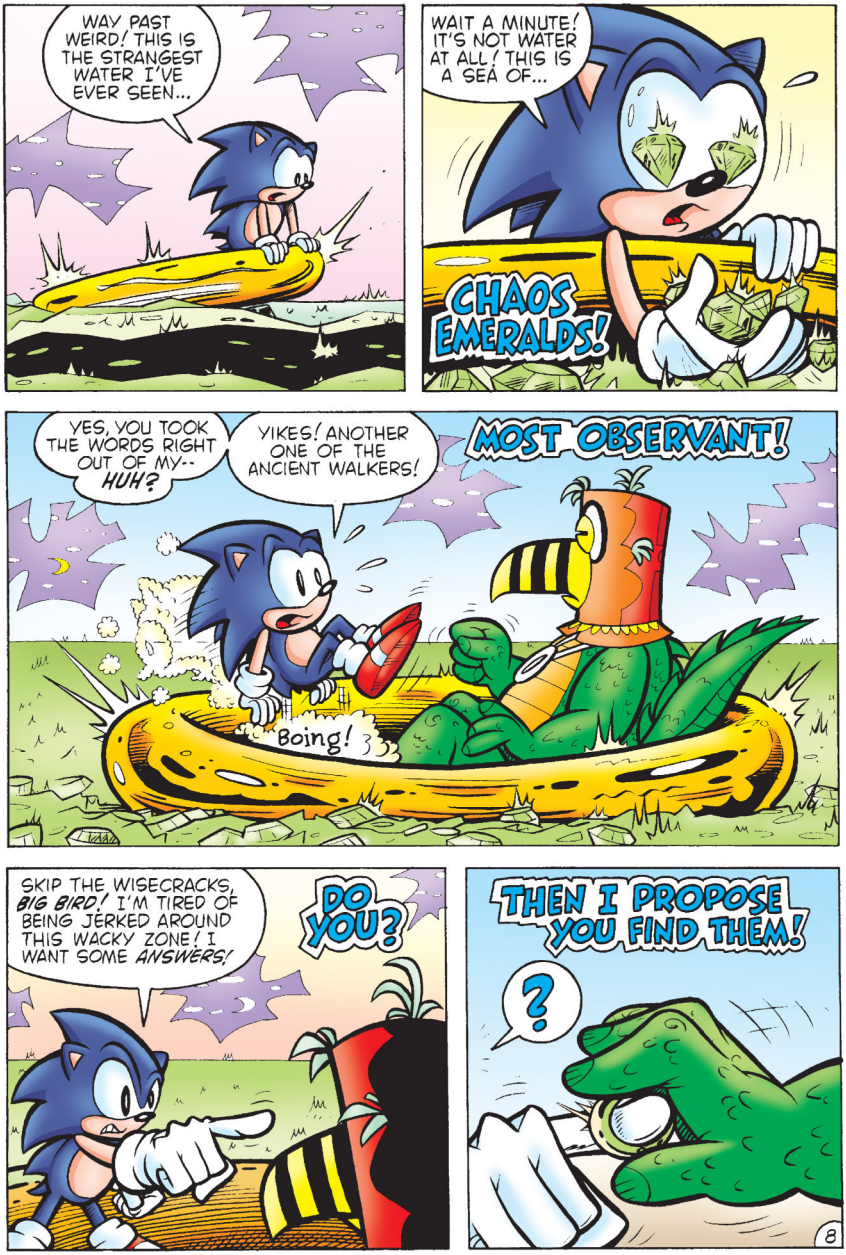

Whouf!!!
FTUNK!
YOU CAN RISE ABOVE THY IGNORANCE AND BE UPLIFTED!

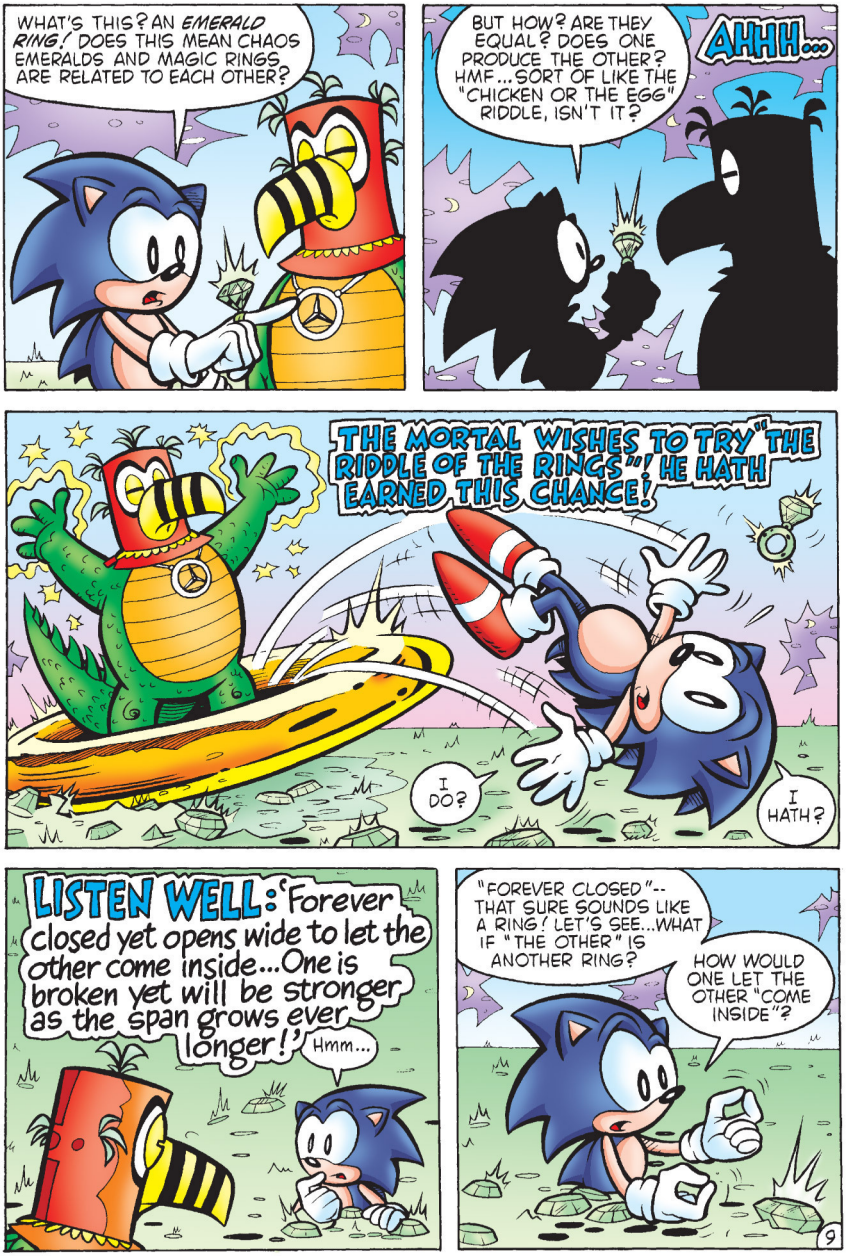

YIPE! I'M UPLIFTED ALL RIGHT... STRAIGHT INTO THE STRATOSPHERE!
I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT WAS NO ORDINARY RING I SNATCHED!


TRUE... YOU ARE THE FIRST TO REACH SUCH A TOTAL!
HUH? WHAT TOTAL?

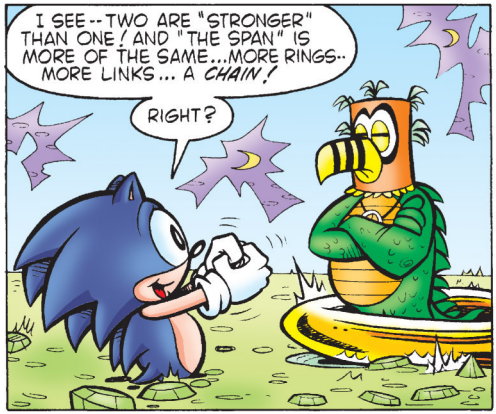

ONE BILLION RINGS! A TRUE MILESTONE! SUCH A FEAT DESERVES A REWARD...
GULP I'LL SETTLE FOR SOME SOLID GROUND BENEATH MY FEAT-er-FEET!
THY GIFT SHALL BE KNOWLEDGE!
NO, REALLY... I-- uh oh! HERE COMES THE RING!
Whoosh!
SO BE IT!
POK!
FAREWELL!
THANKS TO GRAVITY, I'M NOT GONNA BE FARING VERY WELL AT ALL!.. EEEE
EEYAAAAA
END OF PART I
6

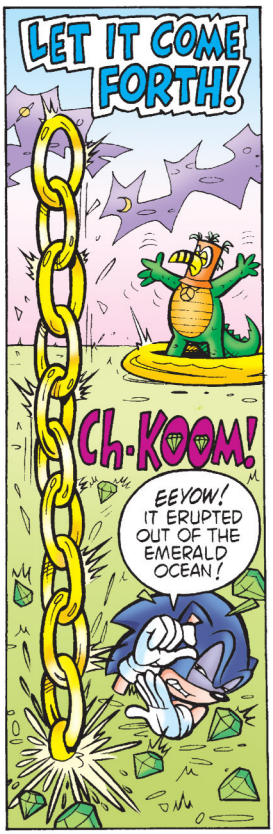

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
in
RING OF TRUTH PART II
LOOKS LIKE I LUCKED OUT... I'M GOING TO LAND IN THE GREEN SEA BELOW...
HEY... WHAT'S WITH MY BILLIONTH RING? IT'S ACTING LIKE IT HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN...
IT'S GROWING... POSITIONING ITSELF UNDER ME LIKE AN INNER TUBOOOF!
KER-
-PLUNK!
7

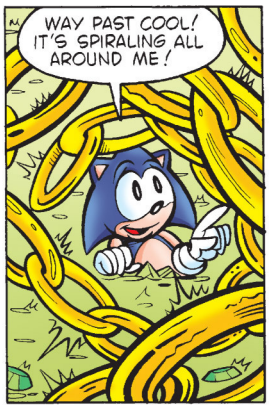

WAY PAST WEIRD! THIS IS THE STRANGEST WATER I'VE EVER SEEN...
WAIT A MINUTE! IT'S NOT WATER AT ALL! THIS IS A SEA OF...
CHAOS EMERALDS!
YES, YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY-- HUH?
YIKES! ANOTHER ONE OF THE ANCIENT WALKERS!
MOST OBSERVANT!
Boing!
SKIP THE WISECRACKS, BIG BIRD! I'M TIRED OF BEING JERKED AROUND THIS WACKY ZONE! I WANT SOME ANSWERS!
DO YOU?
THEN I PROPOSE YOU FIND THEM!
?

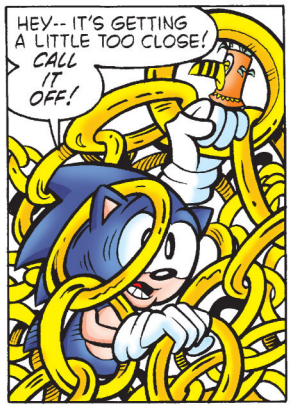

WHAT'S THIS? AN *EMERALD RING!* DOES THIS MEAN CHAOS EMERALDS AND MAGIC RINGS ARE RELATED TO EACH OTHER?
BUT HOW? ARE THEY EQUAL? DOES ONE PRODUCE THE OTHER? HMF... SORT OF LIKE THE "CHICKEN OR THE EGG" RIDDLE, ISN'T IT?
AHHH...
THE MORTAL WISHES TO TRY "THE RIDDLE OF THE RINGS"! HE HATH EARNED THIS CHANCE!
I DO?
I HATH?
LISTEN WELL: 'Forever closed yet opens wide to let the other come inside... One is broken yet will be stronger as the span grows ever longer!'
Hmm...
"FOREVER CLOSED"-- THAT SURE SOUNDS LIKE A RING! LET'S SEE... WHAT IF "THE OTHER" IS ANOTHER RING?
HOW WOULD ONE LET THE OTHER "COME INSIDE"?

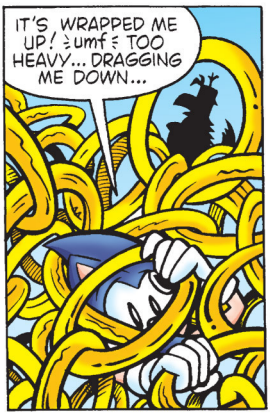
OF COURSE--THEY LINK TOGETHER!


I SEE--TWO ARE "STRONGER" THAN ONE! AND "THE SPAN" IS MORE OF THE SAME...MORE RINGS-- MORE LINKS... A CHAIN!
RIGHT?

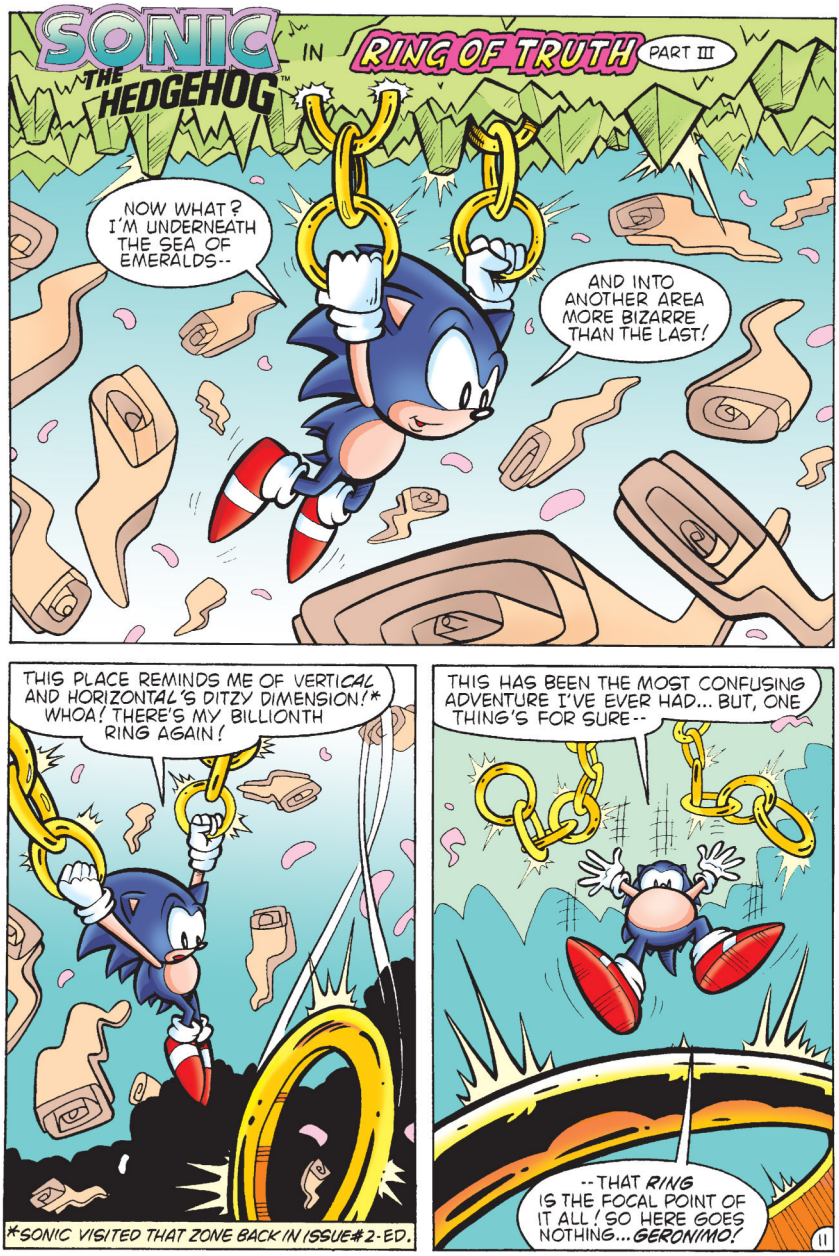

LET IT COME FORTH!
Ch-KOOM!
EEYOW! IT ERUPTED OUT OF THE EMERALD OCEAN!

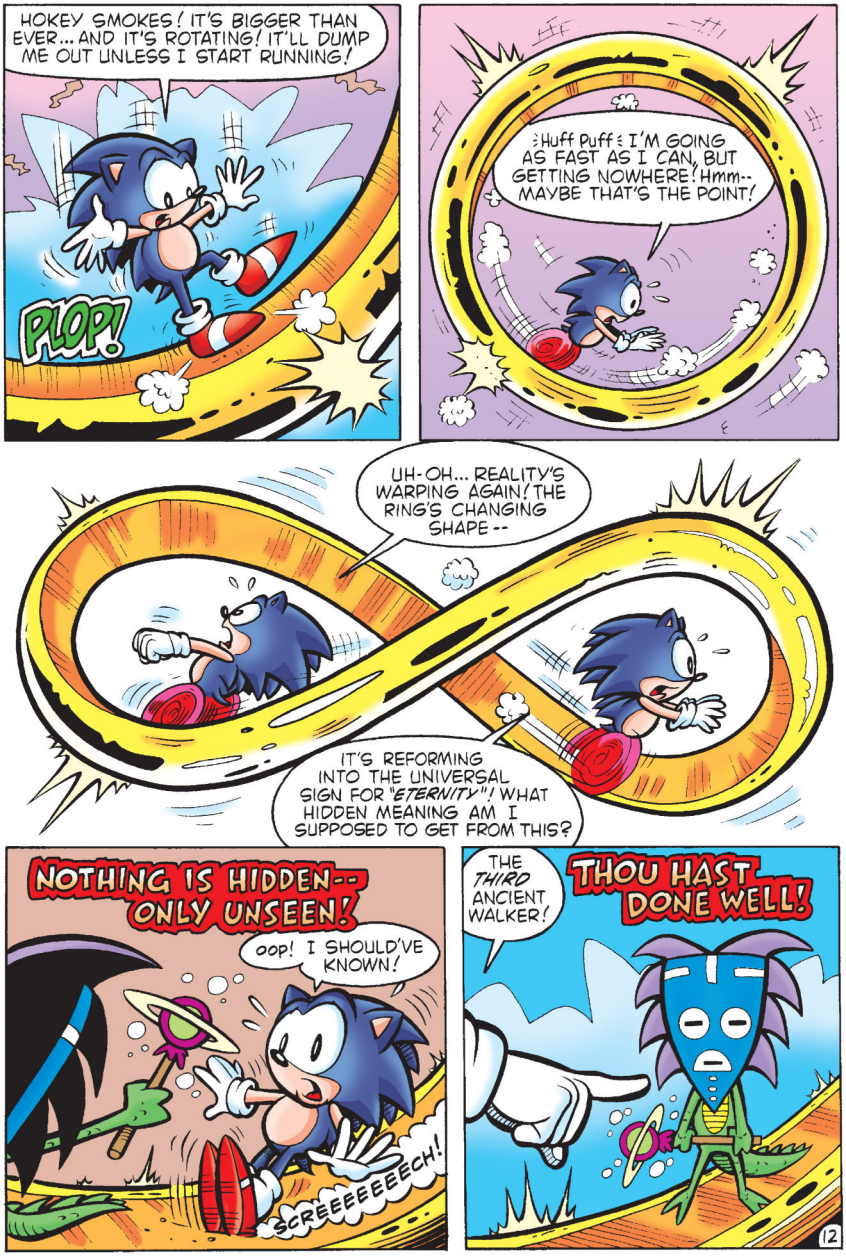

WAY PAST COOL! IT'S SPIRALING ALL AROUND ME!

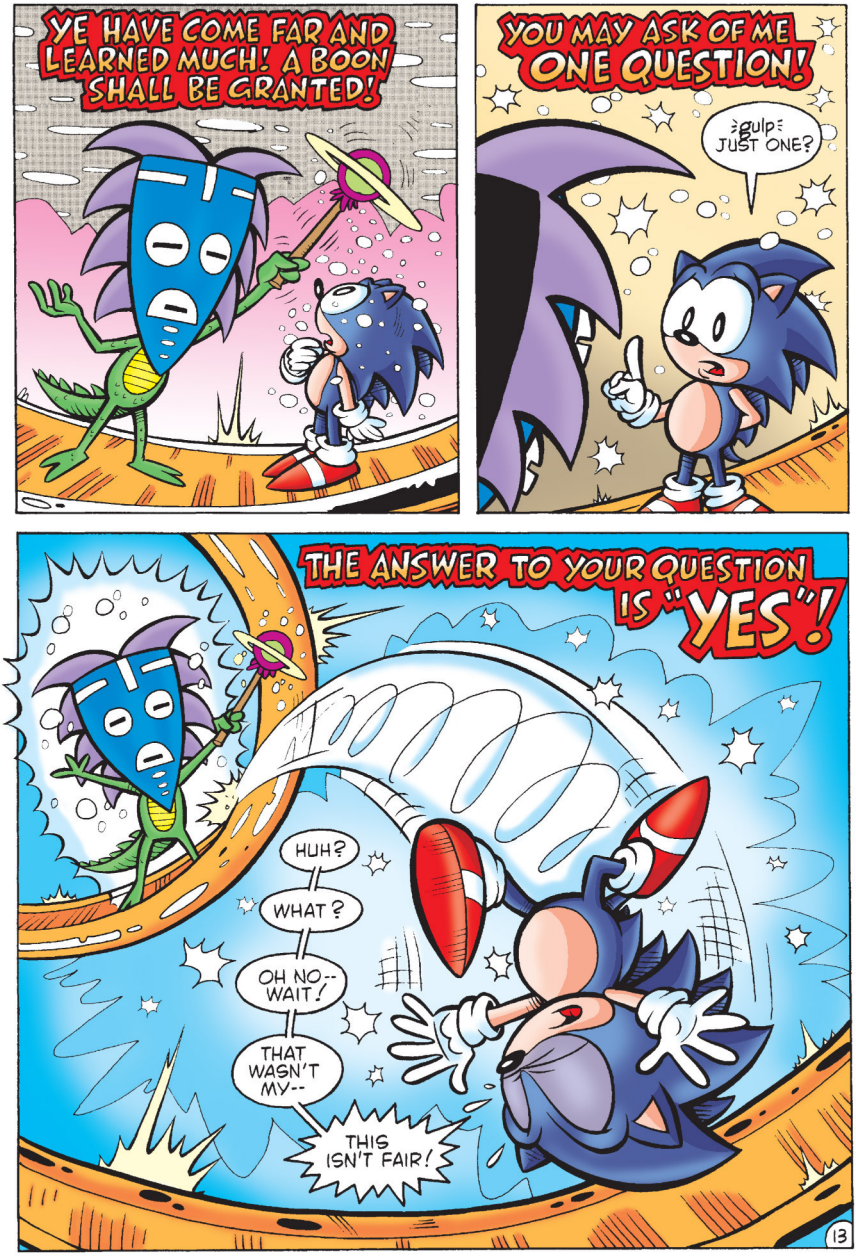

HEY-- IT'S GETTING A LITTLE TOO CLOSE! CALL IT OFF!

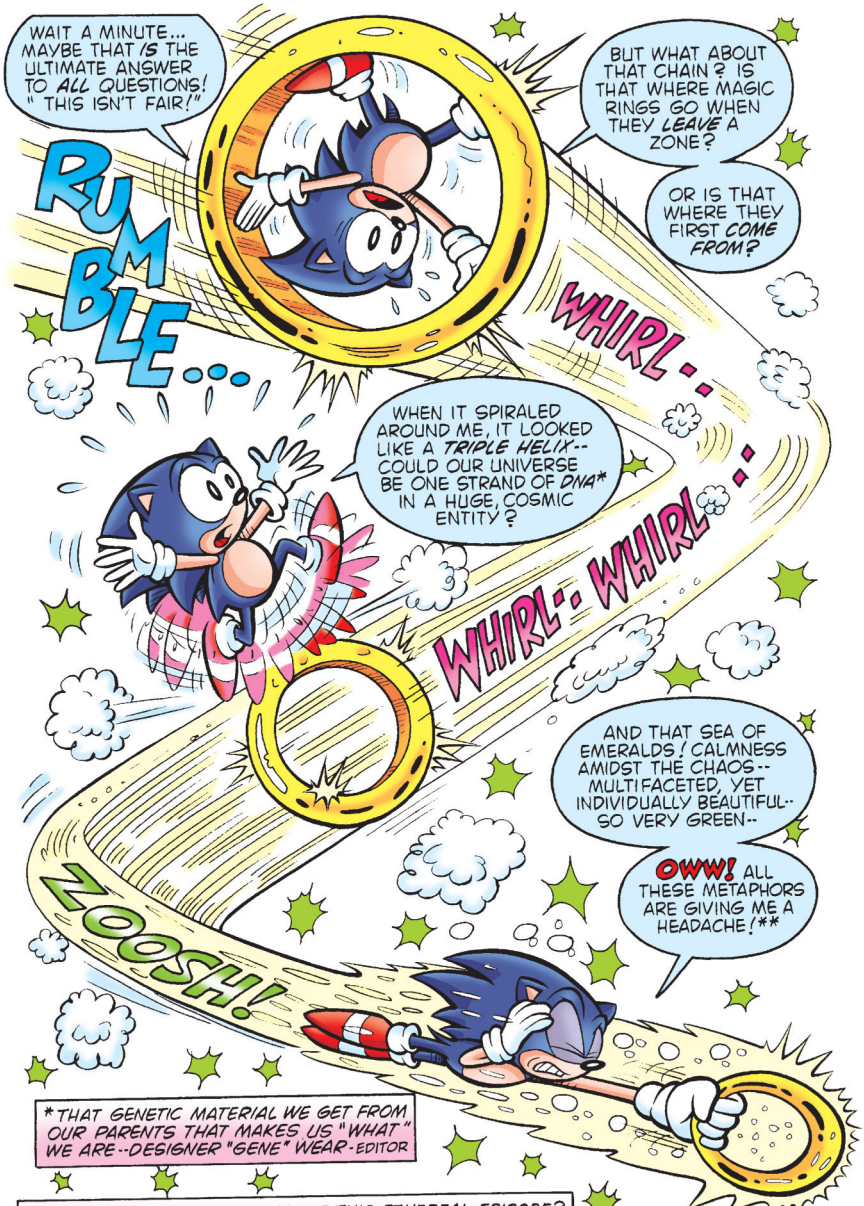

IT'S WRAPPED ME UP! ⦙umf⦙ TOO HEAVY... DRAGGING ME DOWN...

⦙unngh⦙ ANCIENT WALKER...H-H-HELP--M-M-M-me.
END OF PART II


SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™
IN
RING OF TRUTH
PART III
NOW WHAT? I'M UNDERNEATH THE SEA OF EMERALDS--
AND INTO ANOTHER AREA MORE BIZARRE THAN THE LAST!
THIS PLACE REMINDS ME OF VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL'S DITZY DIMENSION!* WHOA! THERE'S MY BILLIONTH RING AGAIN!
*SONIC VISITED THAT ZONE BACK IN ISSUE#2-ED.
THIS HAS BEEN THE MOST CONFUSING ADVENTURE I'VE EVER HAD... BUT, ONE THING'S FOR SURE--
--THAT RING IS THE FOCAL POINT OF IT ALL! SO HERE GOES NOTHING... GERONIMO!
11

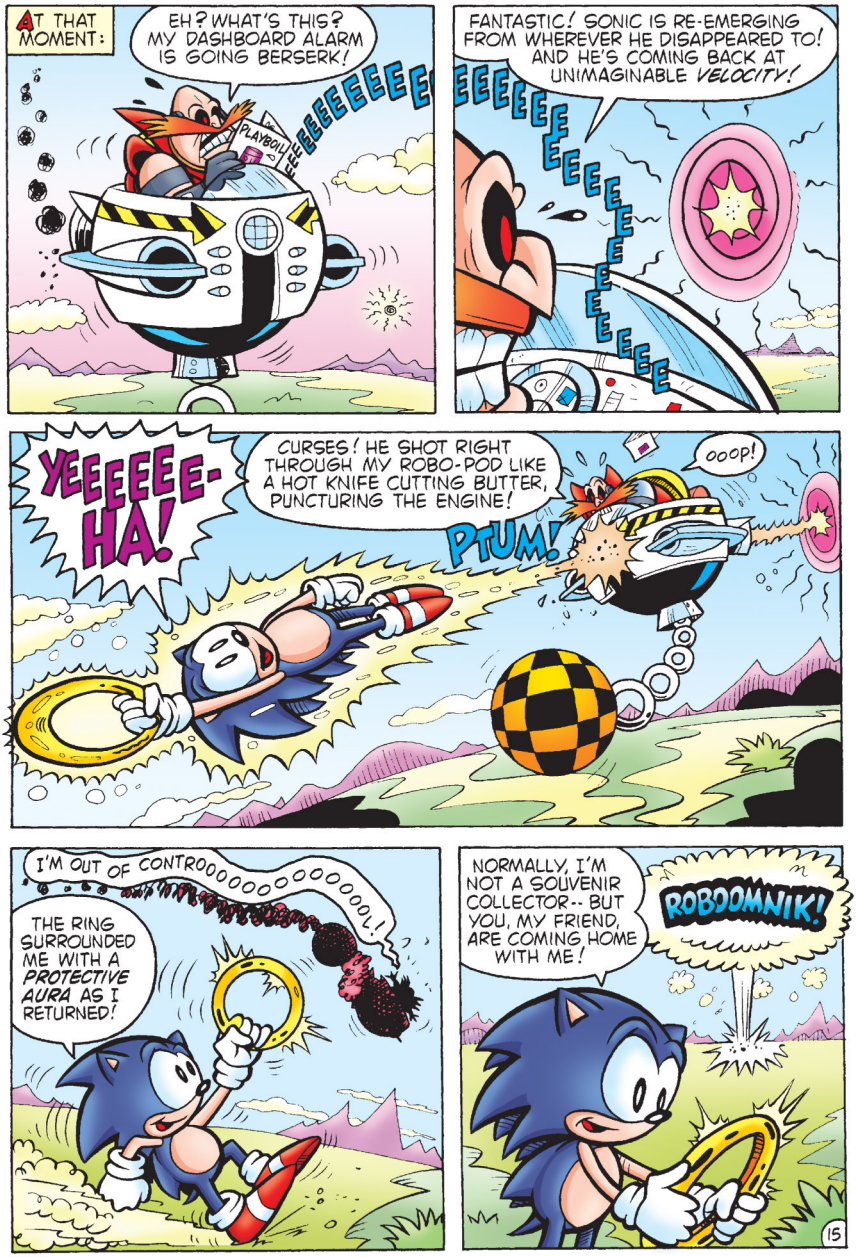

HOKEY SMOKES! IT'S BIGGER THAN EVER... AND IT'S ROTATING! IT'LL DUMP ME OUT UNLESS I START RUNNING!
PLOP!
:Huff Puff: I'M GOING AS FAST AS I CAN, BUT GETTING NOWHERE! Hmm-- MAYBE THAT'S THE POINT!
UH-OH... REALITY'S WARPING AGAIN! THE RING'S CHANGING SHAPE--
IT'S REFORMING INTO THE UNIVERSAL SIGN FOR "ETERNITY"! WHAT HIDDEN MEANING AM I SUPPOSED TO GET FROM THIS?
NOTHING IS HIDDEN-- ONLY UNSEEN!
OOP! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN!
SCREEEEEEECH!
THE THIRD ANCIENT WALKER!
THOU HAST DONE WELL!

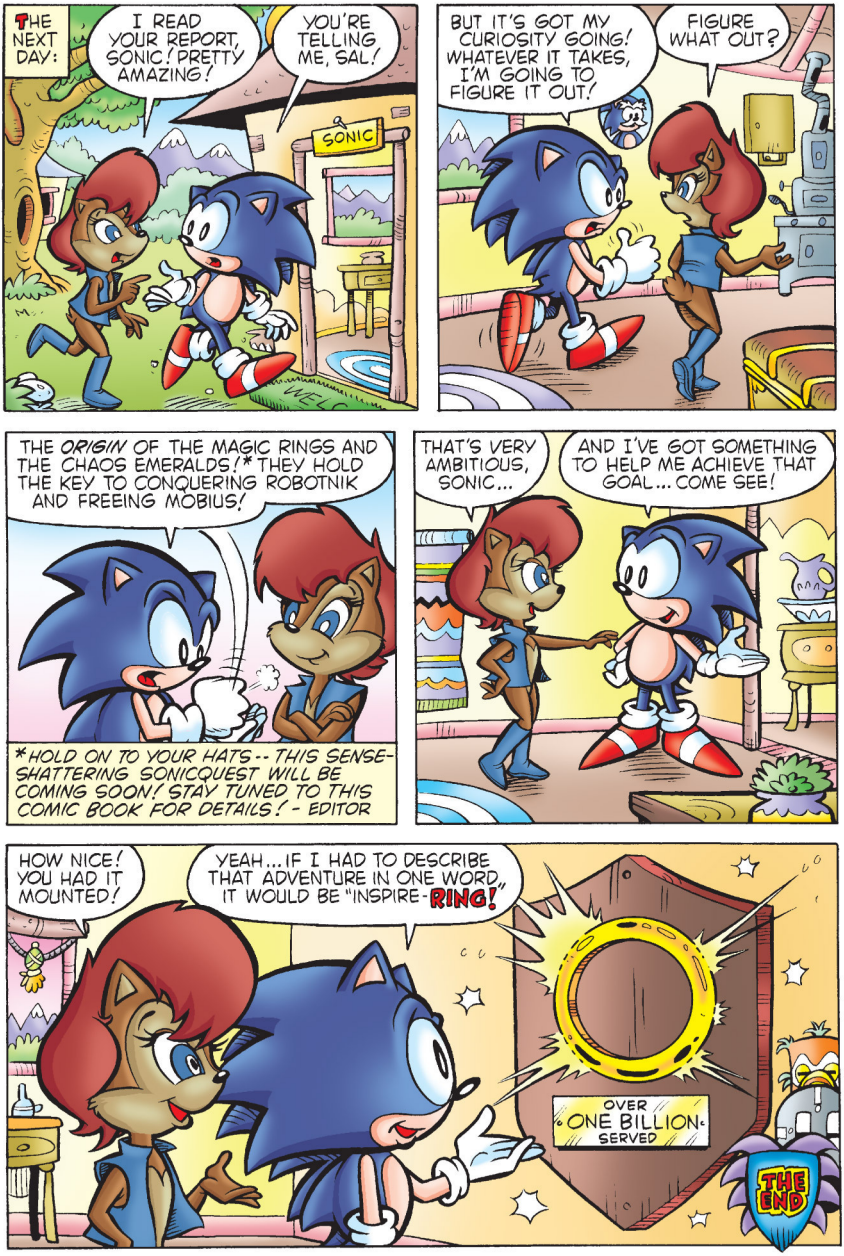

YE HAVE COME FAR AND LEARNED MUCH! A BOON SHALL BE GRANTED!
YOU MAY ASK OF ME ONE QUESTION!
gulp JUST ONE?
THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS "YES"!
HUH?
WHAT?
OH NO-- WAIT!
THAT WASN'T MY--
THIS ISN'T FAIR!


WAIT A MINUTE... MAYBE THAT *IS* THE ULTIMATE ANSWER TO *ALL* QUESTIONS! " THIS ISN'T FAIR!"
RUMBLE...
BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT CHAIN? IS THAT WHERE MAGIC RINGS GO WHEN THEY *LEAVE* A ZONE?
OR IS THAT WHERE THEY FIRST *COME FROM*?
WHIRL...
WHEN IT SPIRALED AROUND ME, IT LOOKED LIKE A *TRIPLE HELIX*-- COULD OUR UNIVERSE BE ONE STRAND OF *DNA** IN A HUGE, COSMIC ENTITY?
WHIRL... WHIRL...
AND THAT SEA OF EMERALDS! CALMNESS AMIDST THE CHAOS-- MULTIFACETED, YET INDIVIDUALLY BEAUTIFUL-- SO VERY GREEN--
OWW! ALL THESE METAPHORS ARE GIVING ME A HEADACHE!**
ZOOSH!

*THAT GENETIC MATERIAL WE GET FROM OUR PARENTS THAT MAKES US "WHAT" WE ARE--DESIGNER "GENE" WEAR-EDITOR

**WHAT'S YOUR OPINION ABOUT THIS ETHEREAL EPISODE? SEND US YOUR SCHOLARLY SONIC-GRAMS -- EDITOR


AT THAT MOMENT:
EH? WHAT'S THIS? MY DASHBOARD ALARM IS GOING BERSERK!
EEEEEEEEE
PLAYBOUT
FANTASTIC! SONIC IS RE-EMERGING FROM WHEREVER HE DISAPPEARED TO! AND HE'S COMING BACK AT UNIMAGINABLE VELOCITY!
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
YEEEEEEE-HA!
CURSES! HE SHOT RIGHT THROUGH MY ROBO-POD LIKE A HOT KNIFE CUTTING BUTTER, PUNCTURING THE ENGINE!
PTUM!
OOOP!
I'M OUT OF CONTROOOOOOOOOOOOL!
THE RING SURROUNDED ME WITH A PROTECTIVE AURA AS I RETURNED!
NORMALLY, I'M NOT A SOUVENIR COLLECTOR-- BUT YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE COMING HOME WITH ME!
ROBOOMNIK!
15


THE NEXT DAY:
I READ YOUR REPORT, SONIC! PRETTY AMAZING!
YOU'RE TELLING ME, SAL!
SONIC
BUT IT'S GOT MY CURIOSITY GOING! WHATEVER IT TAKES, I'M GOING TO FIGURE IT OUT!
FIGURE WHAT OUT?
THE ORIGIN OF THE MAGIC RINGS AND THE CHAOS EMERALDS!* THEY HOLD THE KEY TO CONQUERING ROBOTNIK AND FREEING MOBIUS!
*HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS -- THIS SENSE-SHATTERING SONICQUEST WILL BE COMING SOON! STAY TUNED TO THIS COMIC BOOK FOR DETAILS! - EDITOR
THAT'S VERY AMBITIOUS, SONIC...
AND I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO HELP ME ACHIEVE THAT GOAL... COME SEE!
HOW NICE! YOU HAD IT MOUNTED!
YEAH... IF I HAD TO DESCRIBE THAT ADVENTURE IN ONE WORD, IT WOULD BE "INSPIRE-RING!"
OVER ONE BILLION SERVED
THE END

SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS
KNUCKLES™

A SENSE OF HISTORY

PART II

"A RIDDLE-- WRAPPED IN AN ENIGMA!"

HOW COULD THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE CHAOTIX...

...AND THE ACTIONS OF THE UNSEEN "ARCHIMEDES"...

ARCHIMEDES

...BE CONNECTED TO THE ANCIENT LEGENDS WHICH SURROUND MOUNT FATE?*

I'VE GOTTA THINK BACK...

...BACK TO THE TALES MY FATHER TOLD ME OF OUR PEOPLE'S SALVATION...

...AND HOW THAT SALVATION-- BETRAYED BY ARROGANCE-- NEARLY DESTROYED THE WORLD!

SCRIPT & PENCILS:
KEN PENDERS
INKS:
JON D'AGOSTINO

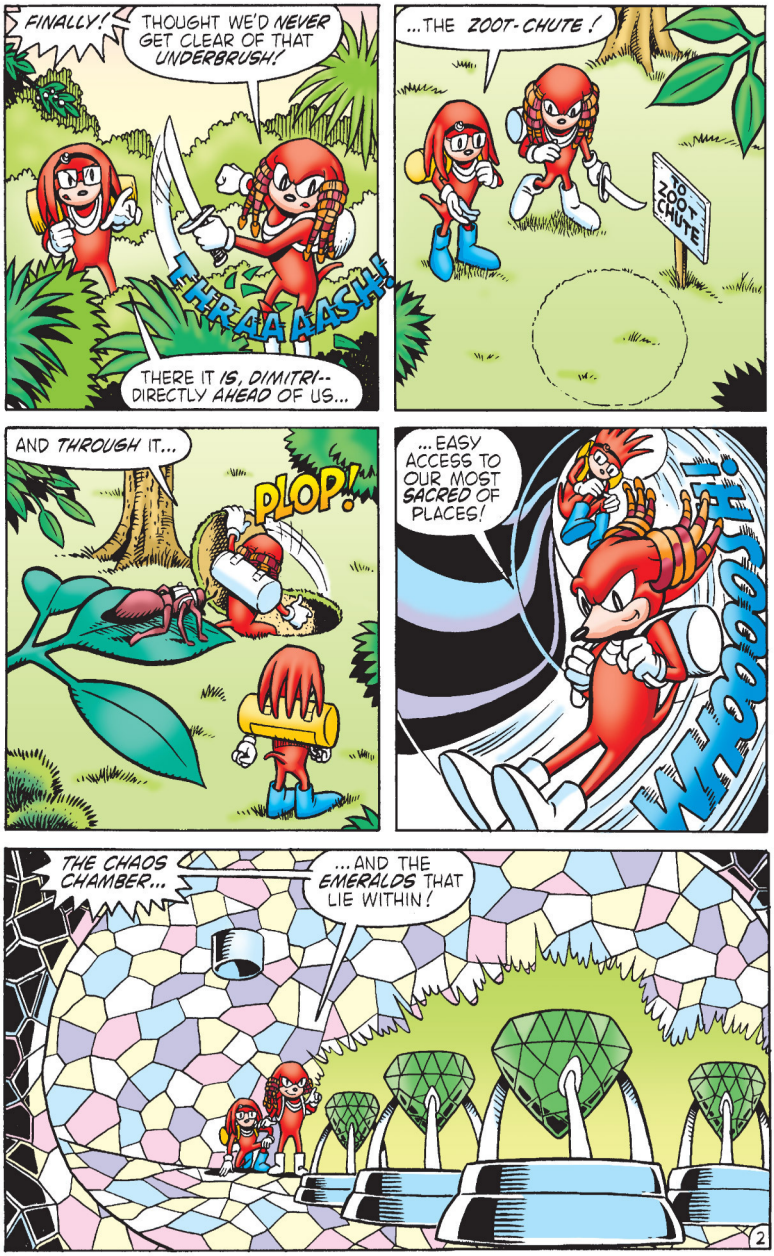
* FOR THE FULL DETAILS, CHECK OUT LAST ISSUE! -- EDITOR

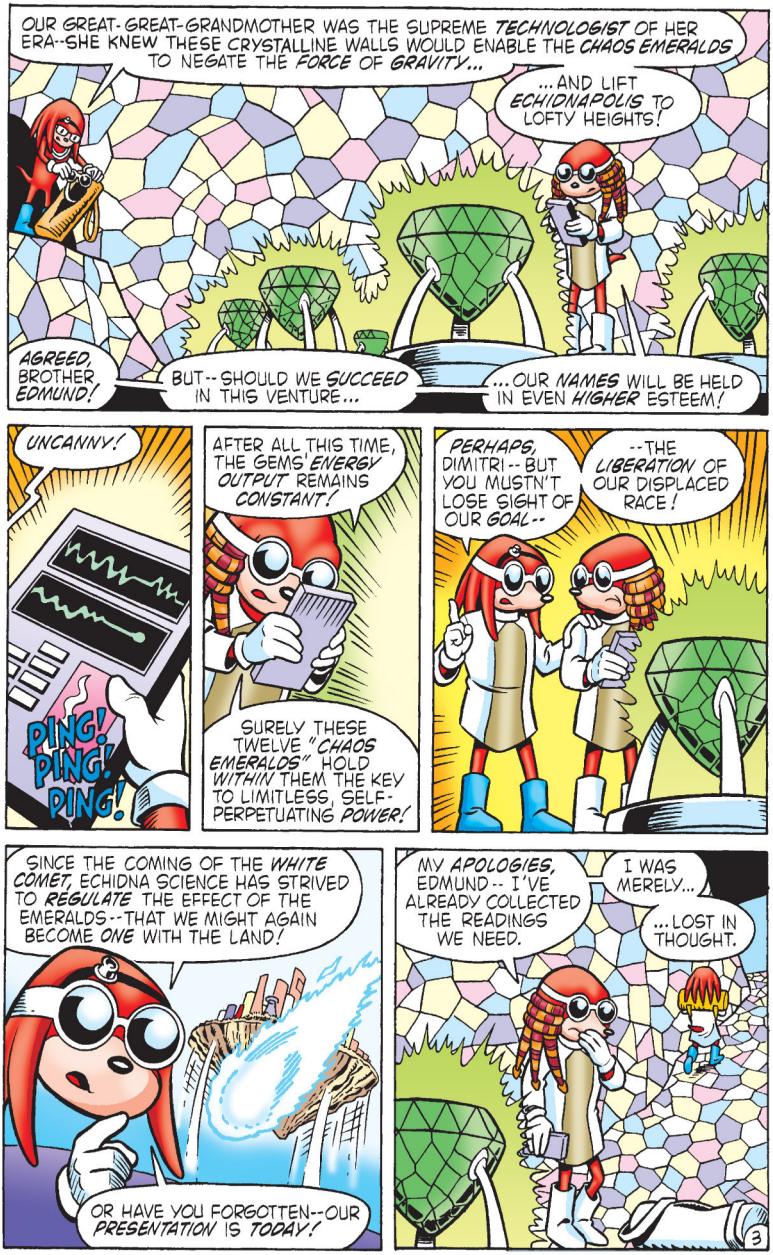
GENERATIONS HAD PASSED SINCE THE FLOATING ISLAND ESCAPED THE GRIP OF GRAVITY!

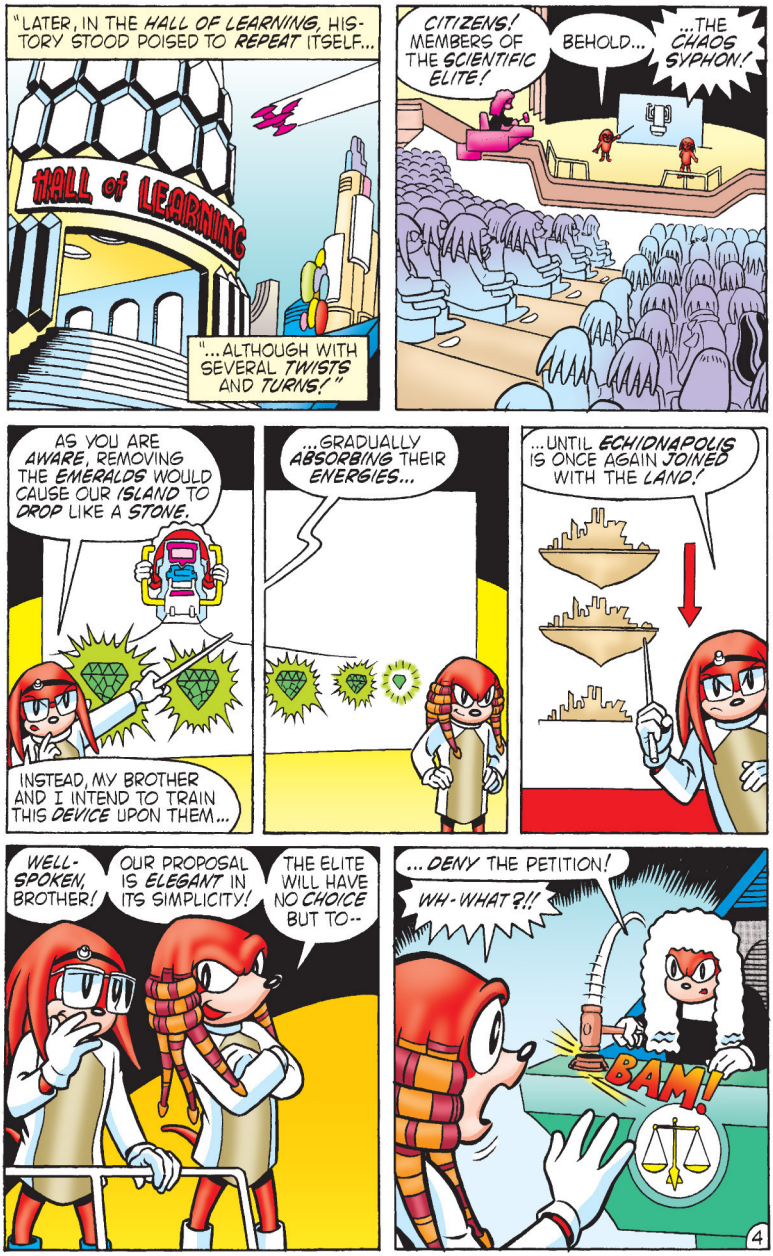
"IN THAT TIME, MY PEOPLE LEARNED TO ADAPT...

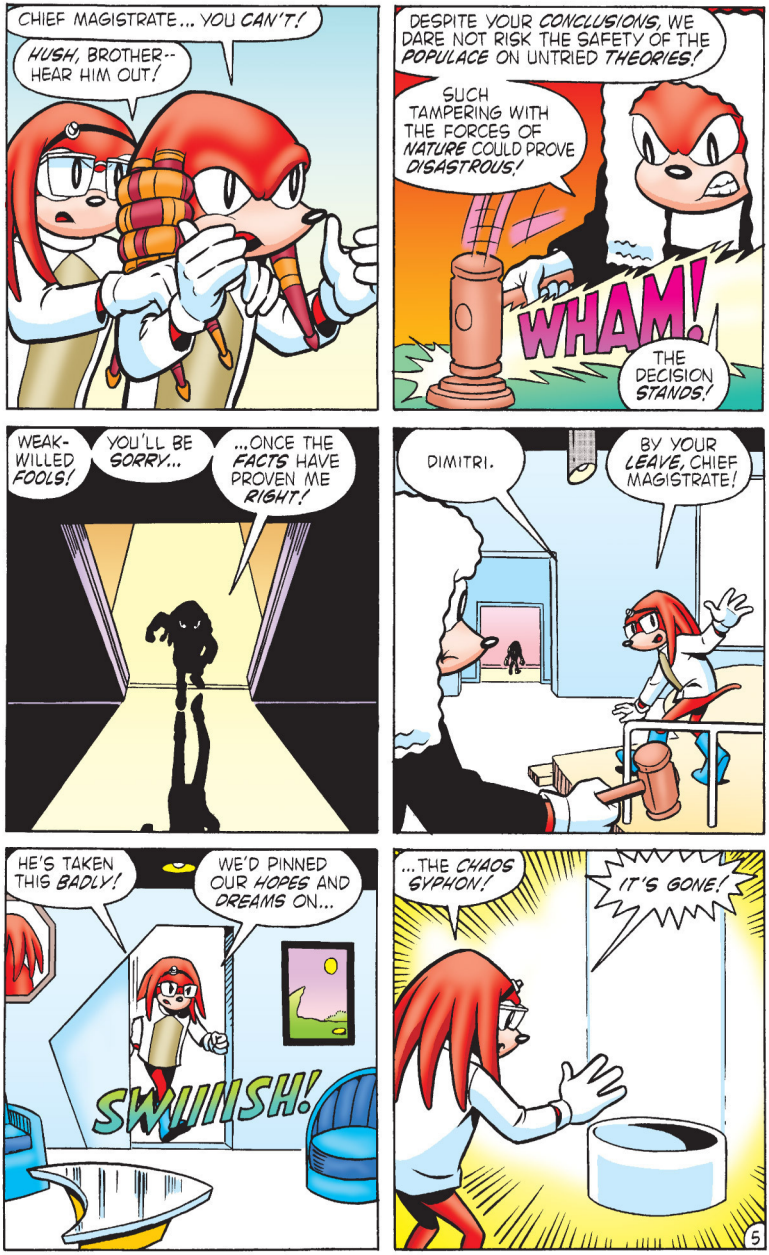
"...THOUGH MANY YEARNED FOR THE EARTHBOUND DAYS OF SOCIETY'S YOUTH!"

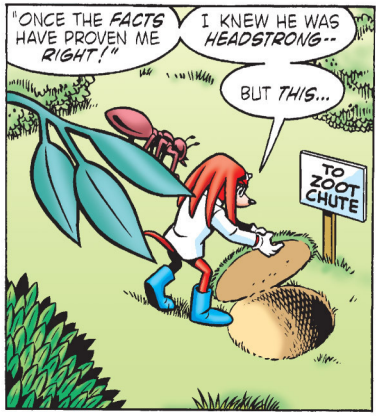
RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE

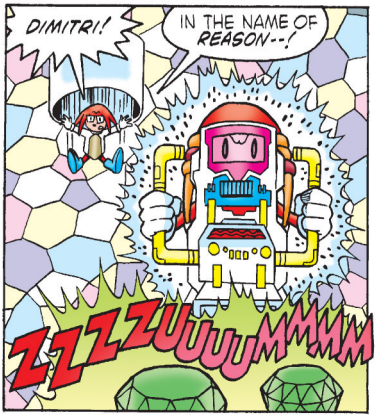

FINALLY!
THOUGHT WE'D NEVER GET CLEAR OF THAT UNDERBRUSH!
THRAAAASH!
THERE IT IS, DIMITRI-- DIRECTLY AHEAD OF US...
...THE ZOOT-CHUTE!
TO ZOOT-CHUTE
AND THROUGH IT...
PLOP!
...EASY ACCESS TO OUR MOST SACRED OF PLACES!
WHOOSH!
THE CHAOS CHAMBER...
...AND THE EMERALDS THAT LIE WITHIN!

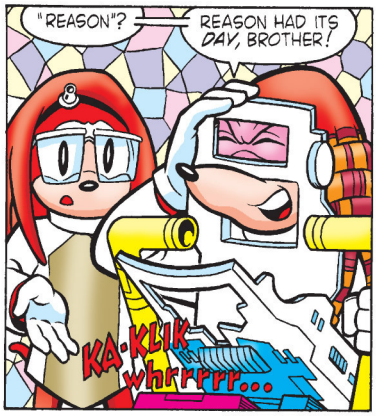

OUR GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMOTHER WAS THE SUPREME TECHNOLOGIST OF HER ERA--SHE KNEW THESE CRYSTALLINE WALLS WOULD ENABLE THE CHAOS EMERALDS TO NEGATE THE FORCE OF GRAVITY...
...AND LIFT ECHIDNAPOLIS TO LOFTY HEIGHTS!
AGREED, BROTHER EDMUND!
BUT--SHOULD WE SUCCEED IN THIS VENTURE...
...OUR NAMES WILL BE HELD IN EVEN HIGHER ESTEEM!
UNCANNY!
PING! PING! PING!
AFTER ALL THIS TIME, THE GEMS' ENERGY OUTPUT REMAINS CONSTANT!
SURELY THESE TWELVE "CHAOS EMERALDS" HOLD WITHIN THEM THE KEY TO LIMITLESS, SELF-PERPETUATING POWER!
PERHAPS, DIMITRI--BUT YOU MUSTN'T LOSE SIGHT OF OUR GOAL--
--THE LIBERATION OF OUR DISPLACED RACE!
SINCE THE COMING OF THE WHITE COMET, ECHIDNA SCIENCE HAS STRIVED TO REGULATE THE EFFECT OF THE EMERALDS--THAT WE MIGHT AGAIN BECOME ONE WITH THE LAND!
OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN--OUR PRESENTATION IS TODAY!
MY APOLOGIES, EDMUND--I'VE ALREADY COLLECTED THE READINGS WE NEED.
I WAS MERELY...
...LOST IN THOUGHT.
3

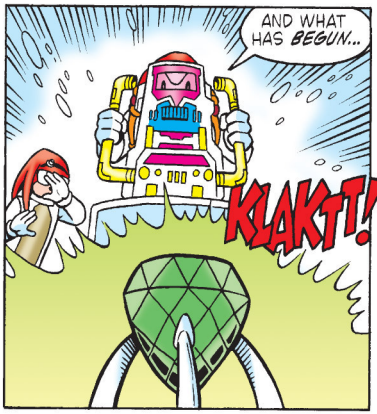

"LATER, IN THE HALL OF LEARNING, HISTORY STOOD POISED TO REPEAT ITSELF...
HALL of LEARNING
"...ALTHOUGH WITH SEVERAL TWISTS AND TURNS!"
CITIZENS! MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ELITE!
BEHOLD...
...THE CHAOS SYPHON!
AS YOU ARE AWARE, REMOVING THE EMERALDS WOULD CAUSE OUR ISLAND TO DROP LIKE A STONE.
INSTEAD, MY BROTHER AND I INTEND TO TRAIN THIS DEVICE UPON THEM...
...GRADUALLY ABSORBING THEIR ENERGIES...
...UNTIL ECHIDNAPOLIS IS ONCE AGAIN JOINED WITH THE LAND!
WELL-SPOKEN, BROTHER!
OUR PROPOSAL IS ELEGANT IN ITS SIMPLICITY!
THE ELITE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO--
...DENY THE PETITION!
WH-WHAT?!!
BAM!
4


CHIEF MAGISTRATE... YOU CAN'T!
HUSH, BROTHER-- HEAR HIM OUT!
DESPITE YOUR CONCLUSIONS, WE DARE NOT RISK THE SAFETY OF THE POPULACE ON UNTRIED THEORIES!
SUCH TAMPERING WITH THE FORCES OF NATURE COULD PROVE DISASTROUS!
WHAM!
THE DECISION STANDS!
WEAK-WILLED FOOLS!
YOU'LL BE SORRY...
...ONCE THE FACTS HAVE PROVEN ME RIGHT!
DIMITRI.
BY YOUR LEAVE, CHIEF MAGISTRATE!
HE'S TAKEN THIS BADLY!
WE'D PINNED OUR HOPES AND DREAMS ON...
SWIIISH!
...THE CHAOS GYPHON!
IT'S GONE!


"ONCE THE FACTS HAVE PROVEN ME RIGHT!"
I KNEW HE WAS HEADSTRONG--
BUT THIS...
TO ZOOT CHUTE

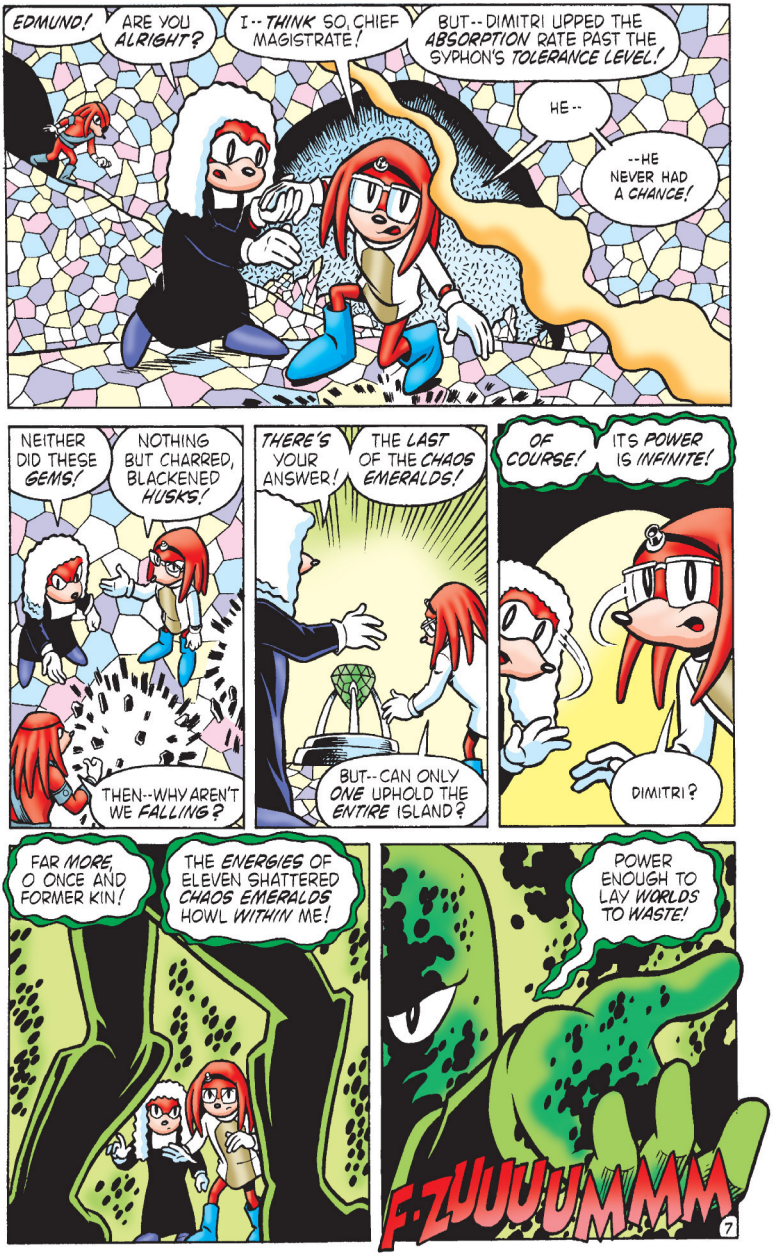

DIMITRI!
IN THE NAME OF REASON--!
ZZZZUUUUMMMM

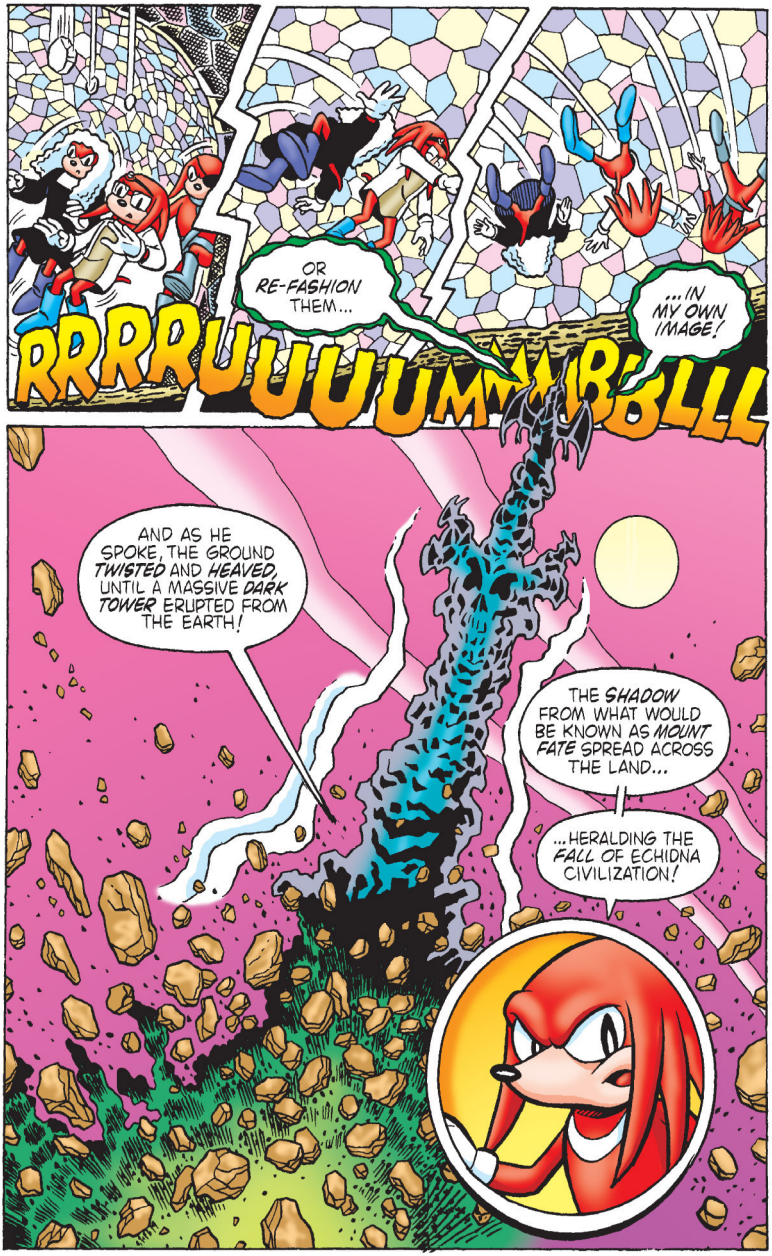

"REASON"?
REASON HAD ITS DAY, BROTHER!
KA-KLIK whrrrrr...


AND WHAT HAS BEGUN...
KLAKT!

...CANNOT BE UNDONE!
EOEOEOEOEOEO

KRA-KOOOOM!


EDMUND!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
I--THINK SO, CHIEF MAGISTRATE!
BUT--DIMITRI UPPED THE ABSORPTION RATE PAST THE SYPHON'S TOLERANCE LEVEL!
HE--
--HE NEVER HAD A CHANCE!
NEITHER DID THESE GEMS!
NOTHING BUT CHARRED, BLACKENED HUSKS!
THEN--WHY AREN'T WE FALLING?
THERE'S YOUR ANSWER!
THE LAST OF THE CHAOS EMERALDS!
BUT--CAN ONLY ONE UPHOLD THE ENTIRE ISLAND?
OF COURSE!
IT'S POWER IS INFINITE!
DIMITRI?
FAR MORE, O ONCE AND FORMER KIN!
THE ENERGIES OF ELEVEN SHATTERED CHAOS EMERALDS HOWL WITHIN ME!
POWER ENOUGH TO LAY WORLDS TO WASTE!
F-ZUUUUMMM


RRRRUUUUMMBLLL
OR RE-FASHION THEM...
...IN MY OWN IMAGE!
AND AS HE SPOKE, THE GROUND TWISTED AND HEAVED, UNTIL A MASSIVE DARK TOWER ERUPTED FROM THE EARTH!
THE SHADOW FROM WHAT WOULD BE KNOWN AS MOUNT FATE SPREAD ACROSS THE LAND...
...HERALDING THE FALL OF ECHIDNA CIVILIZATION!